



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

James Mullin, et al.

Examiner: Susan Ungar

Serial No. 09/853,427

Group Art Unit: 1642

Filed: May 10, 2001

Response to Paper No. 8

For: EARLY DETECTION OF
CANCEROUS AND PRECANCEROUS
CONDITIONS BY LEAKAGE OF
SIGNATURE PEPTIDES AND
CARBOHYDRATES INTO THE
BLOODSTREAM

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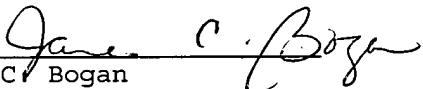
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Certification of Mailing Under 37 CFR §1.8(a)

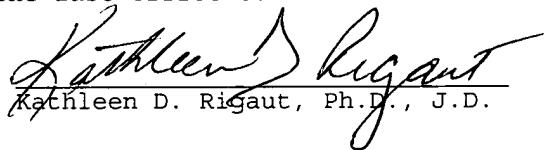
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on
March 21, 2003 with the United States Postal Service as first class mail
in an envelope addressed to COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 21, 2003
Date of Certificate


Jane C. Bogan

Petition for Extension Under 37 CFR §1.136(a)

The undersigned hereby petitions for an extension of time of One (1)
month beyond the time period set in the last office communication. The proper
fee under 37 CFR §1.17 is enclosed.


Kathleen D. Rigaut, Ph.D., J.D.

Computation of Additional Fee for Extension

No Additional Fee is required.
 A check is enclosed in the amount of \$ 55.00

*Applicant is a Small Entity.

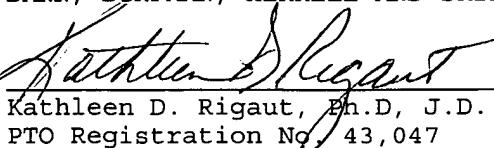
In the event the check is improper, or the fee calculation is in error,
the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any
overpayment to the account of the undersigned attorneys, Account No. 04-1406.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

03/31/2003 JBALINAN 00000035 09853427

01 FC:2251

55.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL AND SKILLMAN


Kathleen D. Rigaut, Ph.D., J.D.
PTO Registration No. 43,047

215 563-4100 (T)
215 563-4044 (F)



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of) Examiner: Ungar, Susan
James Mullin et al.)
Serial No.: 09/853,427) Art Unit: 1642
Filed: May 10, 2001) Response to Paper No. 8
For: "EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF CANCEROUS)
AND PRECANCEROUS CONDITIONS BY)
LEAKAGE OF SIGNATURE PEPTIDES)
AND CARBOHYDRATES INTO THE)
BLOODSTREAM")

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TRAVERSAL AND REQUEST FOR
RECONSIDERATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

A revised restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 was set forth in the Official Action dated January 21, 2003 in the above-identified patent application. The Examiner has maintained that the requirement to elect a species from the group of sucrose and mannitol is proper. Applicants respectfully traverse. In fact, the two species, mannitol and sucrose, share similar structure, i.e., they are both carbohydrates, and they share similar properties, i.e., increased urine levels of which are associated with TJ leakiness in the esophageal mucosa. Moreover, the species carbohydrates are members of a Markush group. It is stated in MPEP §803.2 that:

If the numbers of Markush group are sufficiently **few in number or so closely related** that a search and examination of the entire claim can be made **without serious burden**, the examiner must examine all the members of the Markush group in the claim on the merits, even though they are directed to independent and distinct inventions.
(*emphasis added*)

In the instant case, a small number of carbohydrates (i.e., 2) are recited in the Markush group. Inasmuch as it would not pose a **serious** burden upon the Examiner to examine the signature carbohydrates, i.e., sucrose and mannitol in one group, it is improper to require Applicants to elect a single species for examination purposes.

The Examiner also asserts that claim 3 and 10 are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising methods wherein TJ leakiness is correlated with different cellular phenomena which include a) altered expression of alpha PKC, b) altered expression of ZO-1 and c) a reduced phosphorylation state of occludin. The Examiner requires an election of the species set forth in a), b) and c) above.

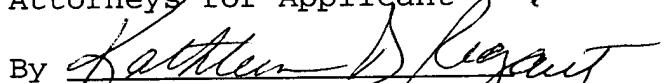
In light of the foregoing remarks, the restriction requirement of January 21, 2003 should be at the very least modified.

In order to be fully responsive to the above-mentioned requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, the species of sucrose and the species of a reduced phosphorylation state of occludin.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications, as provided in 35 U.S.C. §121, on the subject matter of any claims finally held withdrawn from consideration in this application.

Early and favorable action on the merits of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
DANN DORFMAN HERRELL and SKILLMAN, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Kathleen D. Rigaut, Ph.D., J.D.
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UNITED STATES
PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
09/853,427	05/10/2001	James Mullin	MUL01-NP001

CONFIRMATION NO. 6770

000110
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OC000000009582408

Date Mailed: 03/03/2003

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

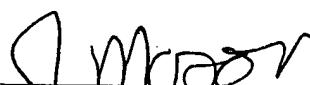
This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 02/24/2003.

The Power of Attorney in this application is accepted. Correspondence in this application will be mailed to the above address as provided by 37 CFR 1.33.

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JAMES E MASON
1600 (703) 308-1901

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